LITERARY NOTES WISHING-CAP PAPERS" BY LEIGH HUNT-HIS WISHING-CAP-HIS CONTEMPT FOR HEREDI-TARY RANK-WHAT HORACE GREELEY SAID OF THE ENGLISH PERFAGE—AN ANECDOTE ABOUT SHELLEY—MRS. ABBA G. WOOLSON, ON "WOMAN IN AMERICAN SOCIETY"—PORTRAIT OF A SCHOOL-GIRL—A YOUNG LADY—

STORIES IN STONES-THE GHOST, IPROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] Bosron, March 6.-It would be impossible to write quite to one's liking about Leigh Hunt's "Wishing Cap Papers"—soon to be published by Lee & Shepard—without copying the book, bodily. It is so bright, so brave, so genial, so satisfying, that one cannot help wishing every reader might see it all. Like Lord Macaulay, "I have a kindness for Mr. Leigh Hunt," which makes me grateful alike to the publishers and the editor of this freshly-collected volume. For the American editer has, with much pains, gathered together articles hitherto uccollected from the Indicator, Examiner, Comnother to uncollected, from the radicator, Examiner, Compontion, Tailer, London Journal, Monthly Repository,
New Monthly Magazine, and Edinburgh Revice. Most of these "Wishing-Cap Papers"
are written in Leigh Hunt's happiest manner,
and they abound in wisdom as well as in wit. Above all, they are so human. How delicious is this confession of the reluctance with which even the wisest grow old.
"Man" he says, "is in no haste to be venerable. The fact is, I am not old; nor do I wish anybody to believe that I am. But at forty there is a pleasure in affecting age, only to be disbelieved. (I say forty, because I am only nine and thirty.) We talk of 'declining into the vale of years' that people may say, 'You decline into the vale of years' and that we may be complimented on the youthfulness of our appearance." How pleasantly he writes of his Wishing-Cap-that useful little head-piece spun out of the fine tissues of his imagination. It is but a poor relation, he says, to the famous Wishing-Cap of Fortunatus; but that belongs to Sir Walter Scott. Mr. Wordsworth has a fine Cap, and Mr. Coleridge's is a great curiosity, for it carried him into those dreadful seas where he sailed with the Ancient Mariner. But L. H. was well satisfied with his own, which took him not only where he pleased, but when he pleased; enabled him to "make love a hundred years ago," to dine with Anacreon, and then go round and take tea with Pope and the Miss Blounts.

Never is there the least strain of bitterness in Hunt's kindiy satire, except when he speaks of the pretensions of a hereditary aristocracy. Whenever he touches the of a hereditary aristocracy. When the was democratic to the back-bone. "It is astonishing," he says, "what strange things come together in high life, and with what accommodating philosophy the great regard their own contradictions. The lie on which their pretensions are founded is the cause of it, and renders it in a certain degree excusable. A man cannot well feel that the world would consent to make distinctions that have no real existence with impunity." In the essay entitled "Personal Reminiscences of Lords" he touches again

the same keynote.

The first time we saw any lords we were too young to receive such impressions of them as should remain in after life. The next time we were blessed with the sight of Right Henorable and Most Noble faces was in the House of Lords fixed! We had just been shown the House of Commons, where the nonchalant appearance of a few members, with their hats on, lounging upon the benches, struck is as no very dignified sight, though we thought them sharp-looking men, and mightly maffected. From their sharp-looking men, and mightly maffected. From their we were taken to see the Lords; and we state, with perfect candor, the impression they made on us when we say that they looked like a parcel of linendrapers. If the Commons were free and easy, we expected to find the Noble Lords noble and lordly; we thought we should see the dignity which we missed among the others. Not an atom of it. Both Houses, it is true, were very thinly attended, and the most dignited members of both may have been absent; but we found that a number of Lords might be collected and not look a bit superior to any other collection of accent men. "What," we said to ourselves, "are these Lords!" It was the superior to any other collection of decent men. "What," we said to ourselves, "are these Lords!" It was the fashion at that time to wear high-restored small-clothes, and white stockings; and this custom added to the efferminacy of their appearance. But their faces! What poor-looking expression was there! What weakness! What a negation of all purpose and energy!

must have been rather bard upon the Lords, but Leigh Hunt never tired of satirizing a class who legislated "by virtue of their ancestors." We can imagine the flash in virtue of their ancestors." We can imagine the flash in his eyes and the contemptuous curi of his lip as he wrote: "There is no talent among the Commons, no fit legislation. How can there be, if legislability can be conferred by ancestry, and is thus a thing sui generis! For either a talent for law-making is hereditary, or it is not. If it is not, then we could have no house full of hereditary wisdom, whereas, it is manifest we have. If it is hereditary, as we have seen it is, then it must depend upon being inherited, or it would be a pure figment, and no great-grandson would be capable of solving knotty points because his progenitor was a marquis: which would be a very ludderous conclusion, and flat treason against the state."

Just here I am tempted to turn away from the essay-ist, and this reductionad absurdum of his, to recall the August morning on which I saw, for the last time in life, the Founder of The New-York Tribune. We had apropos to some of Mr. Greeley's London reminiscences. He was a Republican through and through, as we all know; but above all things else he was honest, and told the truth, as he saw it, no matter whom it hit. "Did you find the Euglish lords any finer gentlemen or better nant disclaimer. But he answered thoughfully, "Yes, in some respects I did. I don't believe in such a system; have as well-mannered men among us, no doubt, but they are few in number; and there is something, too, in being brought up to statesmanship. No, our American politicians, as a whole, would not compare favorably with the members of the English flouse of Lords." Ah me, how well I remember frank look, and kindly smile, and quaint speech—the whole personality of the so hon-ored leader, who has himself been translated to the

Upper House, since then! To return to our Hunt-and to find gems among his pages requires no long hunting-if he was uncharitable toward the peerage, his lack of charity ended there. To all other fellow mortals he was generous as the day. How he loved Keats and Shelley! With what tender pathes-always without the slightest touch of melodrama-he tells of going with Keats, just a little while before his death, to the house where the young poet had tended with such untiring devotion his younger brother, who died. Keats was almost dead himself when he went back there with Hunt, and memory well-nigh overcame him. In the grove of cluss he turned, his eyes swimming with tears, and said to his companion that he " was dying of a broken heart." A little comfort came to him after that; and when he got off to Italy both he and his friends had some hope, "Even I had hope," Hunt adds. " My weaker eyes are obliged to break off. He lies under the walls of Rome, not far from the remains of one who so soon and so abruptly joined him. Finer hearts or more astonishing were never broken up than in those two. To praise any man's heart by the side of Shelley's is alone an extraordinary panegyric. Illustrative of the large-heartedness and always-ready sympathy of Shelley, the essayest tells a story which I d never heard, or had forgotten. In going over to Bunt's thouse, at Hampstead, Shelley found a woman lying near the top of the hill in convulsions. It was a fleree Winter night, with snow upon the ground. The poet, promptest as well as most pitying of men on such occasions, knocked at the first houses he could reach, begging shelter for the woman. But he was everywhere refused, and could not obtain even au out-house to lay her in, while he should fetch a down. Time was flying, the poor woman in spasme, her son, a young man, bending over her, almost in frenzy. Suddenly Shelley saw a carriage driving up to a house at a little distance. The knock was given: the warm door opened; servants and lights poured forth. Now was the time. He put on his best address, and planted himself in the way of an elderly person who was stepping out of the carriage with his family. He tells his story. They only press on the faster. "Will you go and see her?" "No. Sr., there is no necessity for that sort of thing, depend on it: impostors swarm everywhere; the thing cannot be done. Sir, your conduct is extraordinary, "Sir," cried Shelley, at last—assuming Now was the time. He put on his best address, and a very different appearance, and forcing the flouristing householder to stop in sheer astonishment-"I am sorry to say that your conduct is not extraordinary; and if my own seems to amaze you, I will tell you something that may amaze you a little more, and I hope will frighten you. It is such men as you who madden the spirits and wear out the patience of the poor and wretched, and if ever a convul-sion comes in this country, recollect what I tell you— you will have your bouse, which you refuse to put this niserable woman into, burnt over your head." " God bless me, Sir! Dear me, Sir!" exclaimed the frightened old sinner, and hurried into his mansion, Shelley and the poor woman's son then carried her to Hunt's house, and the physician who was sent for said that she would inevitably have perished had she remained out of doers much longer. Since I cannot turn over with you all the many pleasant pages of these "Wishing-Cap Papers," I may as well pause here; for I have given,

which Lee & Shepard are about to invite you.

entitled "Woman in American Society," by Abba Goold Woolson—"A. G. W." of The Boston Journal. Perhaps I could hardly give the book a pleasanter letter of introduction than by copying the following note to the publishers, from the beloved Poet of Amesbury. BOSTON.

lishers, from the beloved Poet of Amesbury.

Messrs. Roberts Brothers: I am glad to learn that you are about to publish a volume of cessays by my friend Abba G. Woolson. I read the papers as they first appeared with lively interest. They seemed to me gracefully written, yet with a certail robust strength—wise, timely, and suggestive—their language clear, felicitous, and pliant to the author's requirements.

Apart from their literary merit, as the well-considered words of a clear-sighted, healthful-minded woman, upon subjects of general interest, but especially relating by the opportunities, duties, and responsibilities, as well as the rights of her sex, I cannot but believe they will find favor with a large class of readers. I am very truly your friend,

In Mrs. Woolson's own preface, she says that in portraying the different phases of woman's life, she has striven not to depict the woman of the past, glerified by the poets, or sentimentalized about by the romancers; but the live woman of to-day, with her strange contradic-tions, her fantastic caprices, and her mind eagerly ques-tioning every principle on which society has been built. The writer has brought to her task an intellectual training of rather remarkable thoroughness for a woman, quick wits, a clear head, and a sound heart. She writes of what she knows, and testifies of that she has heard; and the world of women will do well to receive her witness. She opens her picture gallery with a view of the school-girl-a portrait of such remarkable fidelity that it is to be hoped its tints will not be toned down by time. It would be a real loss to the world if the School-Girl, as Mrs. Woolson pictures her, should ever become an extinct species. Do you not see her, with that knot of rib-ben in her button-hole, that peculiar toss to her scarfer ds, and the hat-brim dipped at an unexpected angle ? Sile considers Cartis "the Adonis of literature," certainly she does, and goes to hear him (as I do) whenever he lectures. She likes pickled limes—but that is one of the tastes, I think, which "follows youth with flying feet." Over gum-drops and taffy she discusses her fa-vorite heroes, and airs her views of life. She has a beau-ideal, of course; and of course, he has dark hair and melting dark eyes, and a slouched hat; and, since the ordinary occupations of life would of existence, with no visible means of support. She does not expect to marry him, that is of course,-too frowning nd parents with stony hearts forbid. It suits her very well to picture herself as the victim of a misplaced attachment; but, meantime, she eats her taffy and learns her lessons-learns them well, too; quite as well as her a secret compassion, never realizing in her young audacity the profound superiority of the masculine If she loves anything better than pickled limes, it is a Secret, with a big S. The most trifling incidents are confided to her schoolmates under pledges and seals which would put to shame the solemn fol-de-rol of a Masonic Lodge. No wonder she is accused of being of a Masonic Lodge. No wonder she is accused of ceing unable to keep a secret, in after years. What would you i She has kept them too many, and too much, in her youth—no one has unlimited powers in any single direction. Ah, lithe, blithe, benny lassie! we all know you well. Sad-eyed women, who were like you once, turn away from your picture with a starting tear—hard-hearted men, who loved just such another lass, less than a hundred start of world a source would report their must years ago, mutter something bitter under their mustaches, and smoke an extra eigar. But kittens will grow into cats, and school-girls will graduate into young

ladies. "Turn, fortune, turn thy wheel!"

The next portrait—that of the young lady—is not so winsome a picture. Mrs. Woolson feels for her deeply, and sketches with a free hand the emptiness and aim-lessness of her ordinary life. Having left school and entered society, she feels herself in a new world, and

one not suggested by any of her former preparations.

The girl who dropped out of her classes two years ago and left school disheartened, because she was not blessed with brains enough for study, and who was pitted as an inferior being, doomed to life-long mortification, bursts upon her in this new domain, smiling and regnant; and in presence of her airy self-possession, her ready repartiess, her graceful maneuvers to effect sly purposes, our little graduate finds herself admiring a superior being.

"Since inteliect goes for nothing, and externals for everything, why then," she asks, "was not small talk, coquetry, and unabashed assurance under all compliments, taught us at school! Why did we not write notes of invitation, instead of compositions; and practice bows and hand-shakings, instead of flinging beaubass at each other's heads to develop our muscles ! This is the knowledge that would have fitted us for the new sphere to which we are called."

The sketch of her gradual deterioration, her wasted one not suggested by any of her former preparations.

The sketch of her gradual deterioration, her wasted owers, her ungratified ambitions, her restrained and shut-in life, has a basis of truth; but I take issue with it, as anything like a universal statement. To say nothing as anything like a universal statement. To say anothing about society as it ought to be—as it would be, if all men were just and generous, and all women as much in earnest as Mrs. Woolson—I think society, just as it is, offers us a fair proportion of women who are worth knowing. If it be true that their energies often die out, and their acquirements often rust out for want of use, it is also true that young men who go early this question of a hereditary aristocracy came up, apropos to some of Mr. Greeley's London reminiscences. scientist, or metaphysician charms in vain, charm he

never so wisely. I should like to pass in review, did space and time permit, the many subjects which Mrs. Woolson discusses. statesmen than our own?" I asked, expecting an indig- If one does not always agree with her, at least one is compelled always to respect her, for her conclusions are the result of earnest and sincere thinking. Her ideal of womanhood is noble. She would have all women pure, not only, but proud and strong, and fearless. If she expects too much of her sisters—expects them to add to all womanly graces, all manly strength—at least it is better to expect too much than too little—arrows aimed at the moon fly higher than those which seek no loftler mark than the weather-vane on a neighbor's wood-shed.

A little book, published in London, which has found its way over here, and so offers itself to the consideration of American publishers, is "Stories in Precious Stones," by Helen Zimmern. The stories are founded on the old Eastern superstition that a particular gem belongs to each month in the year, and influences the fortunes of those born in that month. If you are April-born, the deep blue sapphire belongs to you, and its office is to free you from enchantment, and make you kind and goule of nature. The light blue turquoise insures prosperity in love to the sons and daughters of bleak December. The agate belongs to June, and makes its wearer invincible in all feats of strength, beside insuring long life, health, and properity. And so we might go, as Miss Zimmern does, through the calendar; for she tells a tale for every month in the year, in which its own appropriate gem sparkles. These stories are quite too pleasant to be wasted on the English air: and will probably be brought out by some Boston publisher.

A. K. Loring has a faith which is really pathetic in that Newburyport ghost. Let school committees declare and denounce ever so, Loring is sure that " the boy" is a veritable messenger from the world of spirits—that Miss Perkins is haunted and not head-schy—and that nobody is deluded but the wiseacres who think they have solved the mystery. In the strength of this great faith he has made a little book, with pictures in it-a good thing to put under your pillow, if you want to see ghosts for yourself.

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Legal Notices.

SUPREME COURT—County of Richmond.

EDWARD B. COBR Plaintiff, against WILLIAM SALKN as
MARIA D. S. SALKN, his wrife Christina K. Marting, Pahlp WolAlexander Simpson, William P. Kingman, John W. Smannen, DanBurgher, William H. Dannas and James L. Dannas, Defendank,
sucha. To the above-named defendants: You are berely manused
required to answer the complaint in this action, which was field in
solice of the Clerk of the County of Richmond, at Richmond Courber
in said county, on the rist day of December, 1872, and to serie a copy
our answer to the said complaint on the subscribers, at their size, Na.
187 Broadway, in the City of New York, within toward days after
earlier in this summons on you, exclusive of the day of such service; the
if you fail to answer the said complaint within the true advantal
to plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief december
the complaints. TREMAIN, TYLER & PATTERSON, Pinintif's Attenton

TREMAIN, TYLER & PATTERSON, Plaintiff's Atherees.

SUPREME COURT.—In the matter of the Petition of the Mayor, Aldermee, and Commonative of the Countries of the Countries of the Countries of the Countries of Public Works in relation to the countries of certain lands in the City of New-York, being lands as de south-westerly corner of One-hundred sold-histeenth-six and Tenshavis and on Ninety-second and Minute third six, commencing 150 feet west of Ninthawe. Notice is hareby given to the owners, because of Tenshavis parties interested in the Isale, tenements, bernelliaments, and previous affected by the Report of the Commissioners of Apprains in the above of the Countries of the C

NEW-YORK AND GLASGOW, via LONDONDERRY. These elegant new Clyde-built steamers will sail from Pier No. 2.